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## 4-H Safety Club Manual : Extension Circular 13-01-63

Rollin D. Schneider

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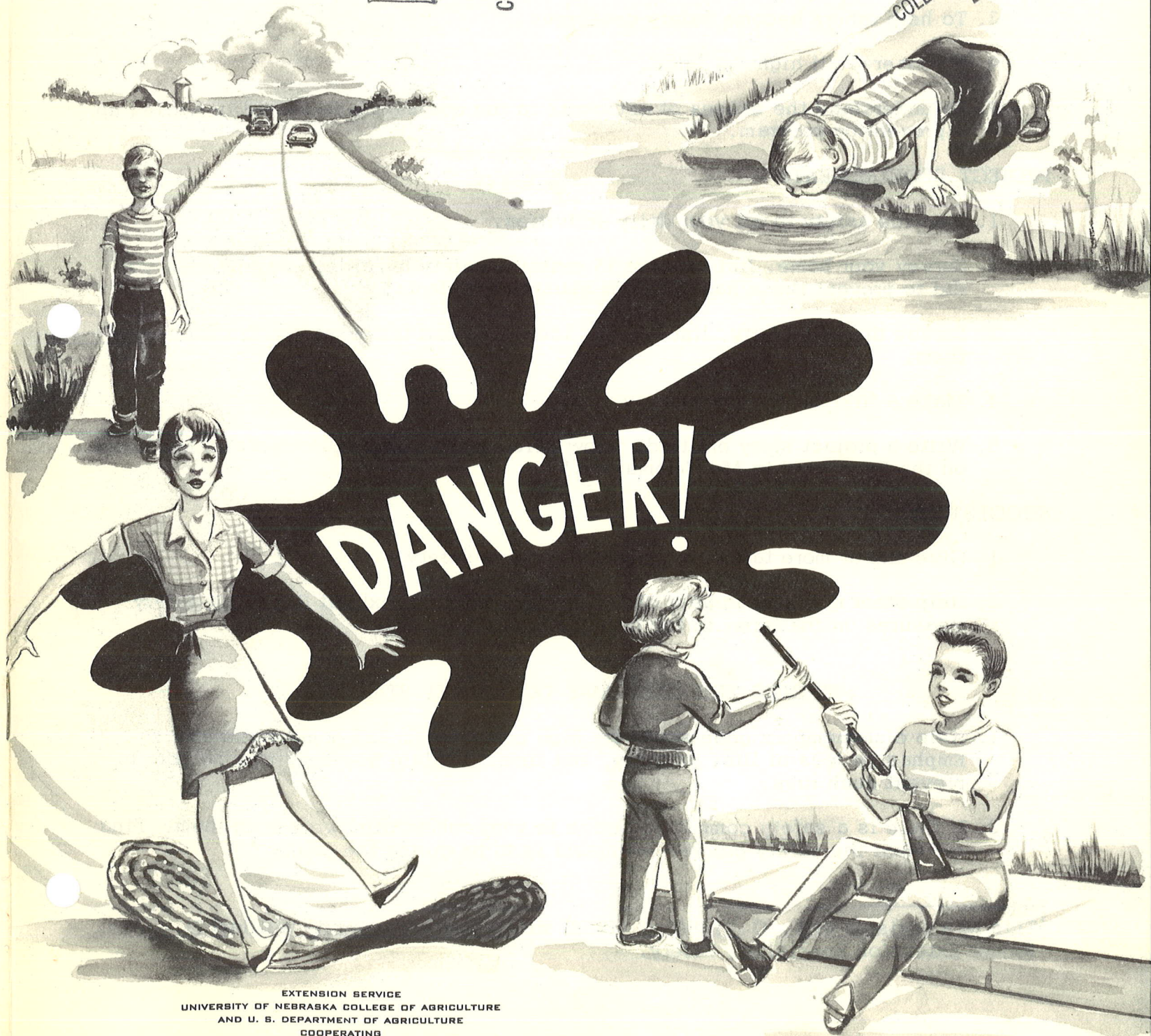
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# 4-H Safety Club Manual

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## 4-H SAFETY CLUB MANUAL<sup>1</sup>

Rollin D. Schnieder  
Extension Specialist, Safety

### OBJECTIVES OF THE 4-H SAFETY PROJECT

1. To develop an attitude of care, judgment and consideration for the safety of others and yourself in daily activities.
2. To eliminate all hazards in or near the farm home, barn, or other farm buildings, and in the community.
3. To help others become safety conscious.
4. To observe all highway rules.
5. To understand the causes of accidents in the community as an aid in setting up a prevention program.

### PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

1. Practice safety in all your daily activities.
2. Survey your home, list at least 15 existing safety hazards, and tell what you did to prevent these hazards from causing accidents.
3. Survey the community, list hazards identified and tell what you did to remove them.
4. Make a first aid kit for home use.
5. Write a project story entitled, "How I Helped to Prevent Accidents in My Home, on the Farm, and in My Community."

### SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

1. Give one or more talks or demonstrations on safety.
2. Help other members in your club develop a booth or exhibit depicting safety measures on the farm, in the home, or on the highway.

### THINGS THE CLUB MAY DO TO GET STARTED

1. Help club members understand the high cost of farm and home accidents. Emphasize loss of life, property, and time. Explain how they may be able to prevent such loss.
2. If there is a safety committee active in your community, work with them. Find out what the safety program emphasis is to be during the year.

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<sup>1</sup>This is a revision of E. C. 13-01-2 (1954) which was prepared by William D. Lutes, former Extension Specialist, Safety.

3. Work with the committee in planning the program. Plan ways to stimulate club members to prevent farm and home accidents in their community.
4. Get safety material from your County Extension Office. Use it for project material when you are emphasizing safety.
5. Use the following as a guide in planning meetings.
  - a. Start with a roll call related to safety.
  - b. Use safety songs, poems, etc.
  - c. Plan your meetings to include some safety activity.
  - d. Have club members prepare and give safety talks, demonstrations, and skits.
  - e. Prepare posters on the activity for placing in schools, business houses, and other public places.
  - f. Conduct a poster contest for club members.
  - g. Have a safety quiz at local 4-H club meetings.
  - h. Prepare an exhibit for county fair or other public event.
  - i. Have team enter the county demonstration contest.
  - j. Make a complete report of the activity by members and the club.
6. The 4-H Safety Project consists of seven problems.
  - a. Reporting Accidents to Rural People.
  - b. 4-H Safety in the Home.
  - c. 4-H Safety on the Farm.
  - d. Promoting Safety in the Community.
  - e. First Aid and the 4-H Member.
  - f. 4-H Automobile Safety.
  - g. 4-H Fire Prevention.

The following problems may suggest extra meetings:

Electrical Safety.  
Handling of Firearms.  
Safety with Hand Tools.  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety.  
Chemical Safety.  
Poison Safety.



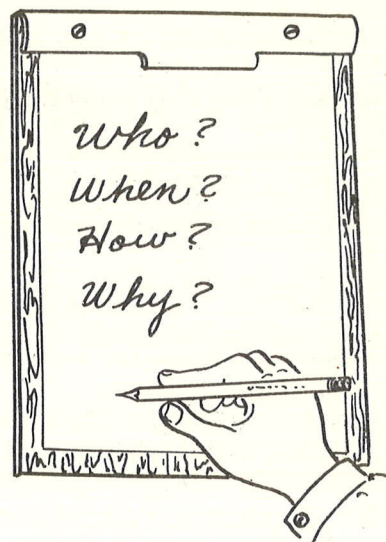
## PROBLEM 1: REPORTING ACCIDENTS TO RURAL PEOPLE

Very few people fully understand the causes of accidents in their own community. If you club members were questioned, you would have many different opinions as to the chief accident causes in your community.

The first problem in this project is to report all accidents of rural people in your community. This activity should be continued throughout the time the club holds regular meetings. At each meeting, the members should summarize the accidents reported since the last meeting. Discuss ways each accident could have been prevented and see that the same does not exist on your farm.

Help your county and state safety workers compile a report of accident causes. Turn in the club summary to your County Extension Agent for further use.

Records of the National Safety Council indicate that over 11,000 rural people are killed each year in accidents on the farm or in rural areas.



### THINGS TO DO:

To fully understand the accidents in your community, survey the situation for at least six months. You can plan your campaign for safety in the community only after you find out what is causing most of the accidents.

1. Begin each meeting with one or more safety songs.
2. Discuss the accident information and figures in your manual.
3. Discuss the local situation.
4. Study Form 7-74-2, "Report of Accidents to Rural People."
5. Use the report at the beginning of each 4-H meeting. Keep it up-to-date.
6. Discuss factors involved in each accident and determine ways of preventing a like accident on club members' farms.
7. Summarize the report at the completion of the project and turn the results in to your County Extension Office.

## PROBLEM 2: SAFETY IN THE HOME

### HOME ACCIDENTS -- A CHALLENGE TO YOU

"Order is Heaven's First Law"

The needless sacrifice of 100,000 useful people every year is a tragedy.

A recent survey shows that home accidents killed 26,500 persons during the year, more than one-third of our annual accidental deaths, and injured about 4,200,000 others. Twenty-one hundred of the deaths occurred in farm homes.

In addition to the days, months, and years of suffering, just think of the tremendous amount of money involved in treatment, service, loss of wages, and in many cases, loss of jobs.

In one year, four million home accident victims paid one billion, 50 million dollars for injuries.



### THE GREATEST HOME HAZARD

Falls are the greatest cause of accidental death in the home--11,800 deaths, 44.5 percent of all home fatalities.

What causes so many falls?

Causes usually are traced to disorder, improper use of equipment, lack of house repairs, and poor house design. Poor judgment, physical frailty, and hurry often start the disaster.

The easiest way to study this problem is to break it up into small units.

### THE KITCHEN

There are many possible causes of accidents in the kitchen. Heating equipment ranks second in causes of home fires.

1. Avoid overheating of range.
2. Provide protection against heat on floor and nearby walls.
3. Never start fires with gasoline or kerosene.
4. Do not clean stove with benzene or any type of explosive mixture.
5. Do not dry clothes too close to the range.
6. Store grease in container away from heat.
7. Wipe up, at once, any grease or moist food spilled on floors.
8. Clean flues frequently. Dirty flues do not permit a proper draft, which in turn leads to incomplete burning. This may cause carbon monoxide poisoning.



9. Gas stoves get out of adjustment at times and release unburned gas into the room.
10. Flames turned too low go out. Where there are small children, use a small spring pin that locks the gas cock when closed.
11. Never leave gas stoves burning at night or when the family is away.
12. Beware of ashes. Have a good fireproof container in which to dump ashes.
13. Space heaters can be dangerous. Make sure they are properly vented and that the heater has adequate controls.

## THE BEDROOM

The bedroom produces 4 out of 10 fatal falls in the house. There are seven causes:

1. Darkness. People generally prefer darkness for sleeping. But when up, always light the way. Never wander in the dark.
2. Sleepy wandering in a half-awake condition. This is also a matter of adequate lighting. Even sleepy people will avoid dangers that can be seen.
3. Loose or rumpled rugs on polished floors. An abrasive lining on rugs is a good way to keep them fastened down.
4. Slippery floors. People like shining floors. Isn't the risk of life and limb too great a price to pay for them? Make floors safer by more rubbing and less wax.
5. Misplaced stools and other furniture.
6. Carelessly dropped shoes and clothing.
7. Children's toys.

The latter three hazards may be placed under the heading of "out of place on the floor." Be tidy. Make the most dangerous room safe by having a place for everything and keeping everything in its place.

There are three sources of fatal burns in bedrooms:

1. Defective wiring. If you have any amateur wiring jobs in your home, have them checked by a competent electrician as soon as possible.
2. Smoking in bed. This risks the lives of the entire household. Don't do it.
3. Using a match in place of a flashlight. When looking for things in a closet or other room, use a flashlight since a match may start a fire.

## THE BATHROOM

There are two main causes of falls in the bathroom:

1. Soap or water on tile floors. Use washable bathroom rugs.
2. Soap or water in the bath tub. Use a rubber bath mat or other nonskid material to prevent slipping. A hand hold on the wall will eliminate severe falls.

## STAIRS

Accidents on attic and cellar stairs and porches can be prevented.

1. Repair worn or broken steps.
2. Steps should be of uniform size, preferably 7 1/2 inches high and 10 inches wide.
3. All stairways should be well lighted.
4. There should be a firm hand rail. This should be 31 to 32 inches high.
5. If there is a covering on the steps, see that it is solidly attached. Catching the heel in a torn or worn place is a common cause of accidents.

Basement stairs are often dangerous.

1. The bottom and top step should be painted white as a warning to people that they are at the top or the bottom of the stairs.
2. Basement stairs are not a safe storage place for brooms, mops, etc.
3. Disaster can result when people lose their balance while carrying too heavy a load up or down stairs. (This also may cause a serious strain on muscles.)
4. Trap doors and stairs leading to cellar or coal bin from outside should be kept closed and in good repair.

## ELECTROCUTION

Sudden death frequently results from:

1. Improper installation of bathroom electric fixtures and equipment.
2. Touching the light chain or switch while standing on a wet floor or in the bath tub when the electrical work has not been properly done.
3. Improperly installed electric heaters.
4. Touching shorted or ungrounded equipment.

## BURNS AND SCALDS

Fires rank second as a cause of home accidents. Burns and scalds kill more children than any other kind of accident. Most of these deaths could be prevented.

Many rural homeowners still depend on matches and kerosene for starting stove or furnace fires. In many new homes, fireplaces are an added feature.

1. Use safety matches and keep them in tins. Strike matches away from you.
2. Keep matches away from little children. When children grow older, teach them the correct use of matches.
3. Keep handles of cooking utensils toward the back of the stove.



4. Do not pass a cup of hot liquid over a person sitting at the table.
5. Melt petroleum products, such as paraffin, over hot water.
6. Use a fire resistant cover for the ironing board and an adequate flatiron stand. Disconnect when called from the task of ironing.
7. Do not do home cleaning with inflammable materials. The low cost of self-service cleaning establishments makes it desirable to use these services. Never clean with carbon tetrachloride, since it can cause serious or fatal injury.
8. Never pour water on flaming grease. Cover with a lid or use soda or salt. Better yet, have a good 2 1/2 to 3 pound dry chemical extinguisher handy.
9. Keep open flames away from curtains or draperies.

## CUTS

Cuts and scratches rank third in number of home accidents. Every scratch, no matter how small, is large enough for germs to enter. These germs may cause infection resulting in blood poisoning.

1. Care for each wound, no matter how small. Cleanse at once, and treat.
2. Keep your yard free from tin cans, broken glass and rusty nails.
3. Keep scissors in a sheath. Do not let children play with razors, knives, or sharp instruments.
4. Can openers which cut a smooth edge are best.
5. Even a paring knife has an element of danger. Keep knives in a knife rack, not loose in a kitchen drawer.
6. When using a sharp knife, always cut away from you.

## POISONS

Few people realize the great number of poisons we come in contact with every day. Aspirins, sleeping pills, detergents, kerosene--all are poisons if used in the wrong way.

1. Keep medicine chest locked.
2. Label all materials.
3. Store out of reach of children.
4. Dispose of old medicines.

## SOME MISCELLANEOUS SAFETY PRACTICES

1. Keep your stepladder in good repair. Do not paint it. Preserve it with linseed oil.
2. Keep all openings for ventilation securely screened.

3. Keep porches and walks free of ice and wet leaves.
4. Inspect toys for loose parts.
5. Do not paint toys with lead base paints.
6. Keep cupboard doors, oven doors, drawers, etc., shut to protect against knocks and bruises.
7. Do not put pins in your mouth.
8. Keep clothes in good repair. Ragged trousers or sleeves often get caught in machinery. Catching your heel in a poorly sewed hem may cause an accident.

#### THINGS TO DO:

What can you do to reduce home accidents? You can organize a Home Safety Campaign. Every member of the family can do his part in helping to keep the home safe.

The number of accidental deaths has been declining for the past few years. Through 4-H safety programs they can be reduced even more.

Safety is an individual responsibility. There is no better place to begin the 4-H Club safety project than in your own home. You can be of service to your family by calling unsafe practices and hazards to their attention. You can help prevent accidents.

1. At roll call have each member give a safety slogan or a safety practice used at home.
2. Start the meeting with a safety song -- "Are You Safety Conscious."
3. Discuss material in the Manual.
4. Discuss the value of spotting hazards in the home as a means of promoting home safety.
5. Study E. C. 63-792, "Eliminate Hazards on Your Farm," with particular attention to the section on "The Farm Home."
6. Make plans for completing the survey in each member's home.
7. Complete the survey and remove all hazards possible.
8. Complete the form in your record book for Requirement No. 2.
9. Inform family members of hazards that cannot be removed, so they can avoid them.
10. Discuss results of the home hazard survey at your next meeting.

#### DEMONSTRATION POSSIBILITIES:

1. Replacing electrical fuses.
2. Making steps safe.



3. Kitchen safety.
4. Poison recognition in the home.
5. Using and storing kitchen knives.
6. Fireproofing fabrics.
7. Building fires.
8. How to make a rug skid-proof.
9. What we mean by orderliness in our home.

#### RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY:

Play the "Find it, Fix it" game.

#### PROBLEM 3: SAFETY ON THE FARM

Each year more than 8,700 farm people are killed and another 800,000 are injured. Farming is the third most hazardous of all occupations.

The principal causes of farm accidents are (1) agricultural machinery and vehicles, (2) falls, (3) other work accidents and (4) animals.

#### MACHINERY

Machinery tops the farm tragedy list. When operating machinery, use the same caution and rules that apply to safe operation of automobiles. Do not take chances with mowers, combines, corn pickers and tractors. Shut off the power before attempting to make adjustments or to clear trash from machines.

Be sure that all shields are kept in place on all power shafts.

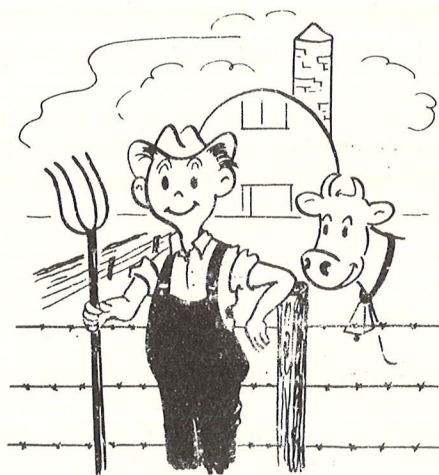
Never let small children ride on tractors or farm machines. This all too often leads to accidents. Don't take the chance--the results are too tragic.

#### FALLS

Falls from ladders, roofs, hay mows, hay stacks, etc., account for thousands of farm accidents each year. When storing ladders, consider the children. Ladders must not be left standing against a building or tree where children will be tempted to climb on them. Warn children to stay off the roofs of small buildings and off the wind-mill. Keep ladders in good repair.

#### LIVESTOCK

Always be extremely careful when handling livestock, to insure safety for yourself as well as other family members. In many instances, younger members of the family will need help in managing livestock projects. It is not uncommon to see a youngster try to show a steer or heifer that is difficult to handle. This is always dangerous.



These points may serve as a guide to livestock handling safety practices:

1. Lead bulls only with a staff attached to the nose ring. All bulls are dangerous, even though they appear gentle. Don't take chances. Use approved housing and pens.
2. Cows or sows with young are dangerous and should be handled with caution. Use a hurdle when handling sows and pigs.
3. Farm pets such as dogs and cats can be a safety hazard, especially around children. Either is dangerous if handled in a rough manner or when suffering from injury or disease.
4. Humans are susceptible to many animal diseases. Take care when you must treat sick animals or dispose of dead ones.
5. Every farm should start a program to get rid of such livestock diseases as tuberculosis, brucellosis, leptospirosis, etc.

## VEHICLES

During the past few years there has been an increase in accidents on country roads. This may be partly the result of blind corners, unsufficient marking of roads, poor condition of roads, etc. A major cause, however, is too high speed for the condition of the road and lack of alertness to other traffic.

There are many examples of tractor and auto accidents which could have been avoided if the tractor had been equipped with rear lights, reflector tape or red warning lights. For day time driving, a red flag extending several feet above the tractor will help approaching traffic know that slow moving equipment is ahead. Red lights, visible at least 500 feet to the rear under clear conditions, must be on all farm equipment on the roads after sunset.

## CHEMICALS

Chemicals are becoming more and more a part of our every day living. Many different chemicals are used to combat insects on our crops and gardens. A lot of people do not realize that a chemical capable of killing an insect can also kill a human.

When using insecticides, herbicides, pesticides, etc., always follow the directions on the container.

## THINGS TO DO:

1. Open meeting with a safety song.
2. Discuss farm accident information from Manual.
3. Study and discuss the farm hazard survey in "Eliminate Hazards on Your Farm," E. C. 63-792.
4. Discuss farm accidents reported in local papers during the past month.
5. Complete survey and remove all hazards possible.
6. Discuss ways of avoiding hazards that cannot be removed.



## DEMONSTRATION POSSIBILITIES:

1. Safety with ladders.
2. Safe handling of livestock.
3. Safe tractor operation.
4. Safe labeling of poisonous insecticides.
5. Safe fusing of electrical circuits.

## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Give the True and False Quiz on Farm Safety.

### PROBLEM 4: COMMUNITY SAFETY

No safety program is complete without carrying the emphasis to the community level. Members of 4-H clubs can provide an important service to their community by spotting hazards and helping to eliminate them.



#### THINGS TO DO:

1. Answer roll call by stating some safety hazard you have seen in the community.
2. Discuss the reasons for emphasizing community safety.
3. Draw up a list of community safety hazards:

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Traffic hazards | Drowning hazards   |
| Fire hazards    | Electrical hazards |
| Health hazards  |                    |

4. Decide how each hazard could be eliminated.
5. Plan a club activity to eliminate those hazards.
6. Eliminate the hazards decided upon.
7. See that the activity is given good local publicity.
8. Record the results in your Record Book for Requirement No. 3.

### PROBLEM 5: FIRST AID AND THE 4-H MEMBER

First aid is the immediate and temporary care given the victim of an accident or sudden illness until the doctor arrives. It may mean the difference between life and death. Proper first aid reduces suffering and makes the doctor's task easier when he arrives.

The need for first aid training is easily seen. Seldom does a week pass but what some first aid of a minor nature is used on a member of the family. Purposes of first aid training are:

1. To prevent accidents. Experiences show that people trained in first aid are safety-conscious and their accident rate is much lower than that of untrained persons.
2. To train people to do the right things at the right time.
3. To prevent added injury or danger. First aid prevents further contamination and infection of wounds. It lessens the likelihood of shock or helps to control it.
4. To provide proper transportation, if needed. It is often necessary to move the victim to save his life or to place him under medical attention. You must use the correct method of moving the victim to prevent further injury.

Ask an experienced first aid worker from the community to help with this problem. The "First Aid Textbook" published by the American Red Cross is almost a must for a good first aid meeting.

Every home should have certain first aid materials carefully selected, carefully labeled, and kept in a special cabinet or box. Even the most careful farm worker may at some time need first aid. Although first aid may mean the difference between life and death, have your doctor treat all major injuries as soon as possible.

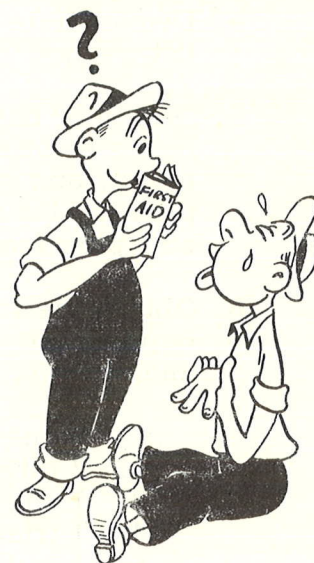
As a 4-H club member, you have given time and thought to making your home a safer place in which to live. Sometimes accidents happen even though you have taken all precautions. This is the reason that every individual should be able to give adequate first aid. First aid is particularly important to those living in the country because of the time required in getting medical attention.

#### THINGS TO DO:

1. Open with roll call by having each member answer with the name of some article used in first aid.
2. Discuss the importance of understanding the principles of first aid.
3. Demonstrate and discuss first aid precautions and practices for each of the following:

Severe bleeding  
Stoppage of breathing  
Fractures  
Stoppage of the heart  
Open wounds

Poisoning  
Burns  
Dislocation  
Heat exhaustion  
Shock





4. Demonstrate and practice artificial respiration, using the "back pressure-arm lift method" and "the mouth to mouth method."
5. Obtain or build a first aid kit container. First aid kits made from fishing tackle boxes or small tool chests are ideal. They are sturdy, have good hinges and locks, and can be easily arranged. Metal kits are desired; however hard plastic kits are also acceptable. Cardboard or other flimsy materials such as soft plastics are not recommended because they are not strong enough.
6. Obtain the following materials for your first aid kit. These will be the minimum requirements looked for when first aid kits are exhibited and judged at county and state fairs.
  1. 6 one- inch compresses on adhesive
  2. 2 three-inch square bandage compresses
  3. 1 square yard of sterile gauze
  4. 1 triangular bandage
  5. 1 roll of one-half inch adhesive
  6. Burn ointment
  7. Scissors
  8. 1-inch and 2-inch rolled bandages
  9. 2-inch splinter forceps
  10. Aromatic spirits of ammonia
  11. Antiseptic
7. Pack the first aid kit and place it in a convenient place in the home.
8. Complete the Record Book for Requirement No. 4.

#### DEMONSTRATION POSSIBILITIES:

How to help prevent shock.  
How to treat a wound where bleeding is not severe.  
How to pack a first aid kit.  
How to stop a nose-bleed.  
How to give artificial respiration.

### PROBLEM 6: AUTOMOBILE SAFETY

#### RULES OF THE ROAD

##### SAFE DRIVING

Motor vehicles are our greatest enemy on the home front. Each year about 38,000 people are killed and 1,400,000 temporarily disabled by this enemy. Following are some rules for safe driving:

1. Drive carefully and slowly. Speed is the greatest cause of highway accidents.
2. Keep to the right side of the road.
3. Always signal before stopping or turning. Signals should be given in plenty of time. (LEFT hand straight out for LEFT turn; straight up for RIGHT turn; and down for stopping.)



4. At a road or street intersection, remember that the vehicle to the right has the right of way. Be cautious when approaching intersections.
5. Obey stop signs and signals. Stop, look both ways, then go ahead carefully.
6. Never pass a vehicle when meeting another vehicle, on a curve, on a hill, at a road or street intersection, or on a bridge.
7. Dim your lights when meeting another car at night.
8. Drive slowly in school zones.
9. Never drive when tired or sleepy.

Location of the farmstead entrance and the entrance to fields and pastures if they border on the highway is important. Be sure they are not hidden from passing motorists. The approach to a gateway should leave plenty of room so vehicles do not have to stop on the road.

### SAFE BICYCLING

All the rules for safe car driving apply to the bicycle rider. Stop signs, signaling when to pass, and all other rules should be followed. Here are a few other rules:

1. Do not zig-zag or weave in front of traffic.
2. Never hook rides. There is danger on both sides and at the back of any vehicle.
3. Never get caught in a dark box. (A dark box is any space where a driver cannot see you because of the lights of another car coming toward him.) If you should, pull off to the right immediately.
4. Keep both hands on the handle bars and be ready to stop in any emergency. Keep brakes in good mechanical condition.
5. Nebraska law requires a white light visible from 500 feet on the front of all bicycles at night, and a red light or reflector visible 500 feet at the rear.

### PEDESTRIANS

1. Always walk on the left side of public highways, facing approaching traffic.
2. Keep as far as possible from traveled portion of road.
3. Never get caught in a dark box. Step off the road.
4. Stop and look both ways before crossing street or road. Watch for cars turning corners.
5. Do not suddenly step from behind a parked car or one standing on a road or street.
6. Cross streets with the green light only.
7. Never cross intersections diagonally, unless permitted by law.
8. If confused in traffic, stand still so vehicles may avoid you.



9. Do not play on public highways , or on streets .

10. Don't abuse the fact that the pedestrian has the right-of-way .

Auto traffic on Nebraska highways and country roads is one of the most important hazards to safety. Auto accidents account for more of Nebraska's accidental deaths than does any other factor. Rural people have to be good drivers. They use our country roads and highways for transporting farm produce to market, as well as for social and business trips.

To be a good driver is both an art and an obligation of good citizenship. Driving an auto requires the coordinated action of the ears, eyes, hands, and feet--and a continual awareness of the great responsibility you have for controlling a machine which can cripple, maim, and kill. As you drive down the highway, you are within a few feet of possible death every time you meet a truck or another car. One rule always guides the good driver. The Golden Rule is "Do unto others as you would like them to do unto you."

The villian in driving today is SPEED .

#### THINGS TO DO:

1. Begin the meeting by answering the roll call with an example of traffic signs found on our public roads.
2. Discuss traffic accident reports taken from state and local paper during the past week.
3. Discuss regulations related to issuing drivers' licenses and school permits.
4. Demonstrate safe practices for pedestrians on the roads.
5. Check a late model car for equipment which promotes safe driving and discuss its importance.
6. Check to see that the following equipment on your family car is in operating condition.

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| a. brakes            | f. horn          |
| b. lights            | g. defrosters    |
| c. windshield wipers | h. dimmer switch |
| d. turn signal       | i. sun visors    |
| e. windshield washer |                  |

7. Work up a set of "safe driving" rules.
8. Learn to recognize the significance of the five different shapes used in traffic signs.



The octagon is used only for the stop sign. It means stop and make sure the way is clear before proceeding.



Speed limits, turning, passing and parking regulations are carried in this rectangular shape.



This diamond shape always carries a warning of some hazard or unusual condition on the road ahead and calls for caution and reduced speed.





Only one message is ever carried in this round shape: Caution--highway-rail intersection ahead.



The crossbuck is devoted solely to marking highway-rail crossings. It means--reduce speed, look and listen for trains before crossing the tracks.

9. Demonstrate the arm signals used by good drivers.

#### DEMONSTRATION POSSIBILITIES:

1. Safety practices for pedestrians.
2. Safe distance to follow in traffic.
3. Safe parking to change tire on highway.
4. Safe highway driving.
5. Safe stopping distance.

#### PROBLEM 7: FIRE PREVENTION

Some 800 persons burn to death each year in farm and rural community fires. The estimated cost of these fires is approximately \$175,000,000. Farm buildings frequently burn to the ground because of a lack of water and no organized fire department.

Farm fires have seven principal causes, most of them preventable. Many fires are caused by faulty flues and heaters. A chimney should be well constructed and built from the ground up, set on a solid foundation of concrete. The chimney should never be supported on wood. All defective chimneys should be rebuilt with walls of standard thickness. Standard flue lining is recommended. The frequent cleaning of flues, stoves, and furnaces will reduce the likelihood of fire.



Farm property loss from lightning averages about \$100,000,000 a year. Lightning causes 37% of our rural fires and is responsible for approximately 200 deaths per year.

Properly installed and well maintained lightning arresters will provide complete building protection. Lightning rods should be installed in accordance with the National Code for Protection Against Lightning. A metal roof electrically bonded, properly grounded, and provided with air terminals to protect chimneys or other non-metallic projectors usually affords satisfactory protection. Television antennas should be properly erected and grounded to prevent damage from lightning. It is a good practice to install lightning rods bearing the Master Label of the Underwriters Laboratory.

Fires may result from a carelessly discarded cigar, cigarette, match, or pipe ashes. It is wise to prohibit smoking in barns or elsewhere where combustible



material is stored. Cleanliness, tidiness and order in and around all buildings is essential to the prevention of fire.

Hay and other roughage which is damp or not properly cured frequently heats spontaneously when stored compactly in large heaps. Heating may continue until the material starts burning.

Soak with water any material which is heating excessively. Remove the material from the building in which it is stored. Some fire equipment should be installed in or near the building in which material is stored in case flames should break out during removal. The material should be moved to a safe distance from buildings, as it may burst into flames later.

From 1951 to 1961, Nebraska had 21,700 fires which accounted for 452 deaths, 1,787 injuries and a cost of \$60,948,287, or an average of over 6 million dollars per year.

The largest losses were dwellings, field grain and grass, and barns and other farm buildings. Farm fires have often been accepted as misfortunes which could not be helped. Rural areas were the last to get organized fire protection --and then only on a limited scale.

To make fire protection effective, it is important that farm families do their part. You can make your farm more fire-safe by having fire "first aid" equipment.

#### THINGS TO DO:

1. Recheck the hazard survey for each member to see how well fire protection and prevention practices are being followed.
2. Discuss fires which have occurred in the community during the past year.
3. Discuss and have demonstrated the different types of fire "first aid."

##### a. Class A, B, C fires

4. Have members tell what types of extinguishers they have at home. They may tell of their experiences in using them.
5. Examine lightning rod installation and discuss the importance of proper grounding of lightning rods and TV antennas.
6. Have each member plan an escape from his home in case of fire at night.
7. Visit the local rural fire department and become acquainted with its work.
8. Ask their assistance in conducting a fire hazard hunt in the community.

#### DEMONSTRATION POSSIBILITIES:

1. How to put out a fire on a person's clothing.
2. How to carry a burning object.
3. Fire extinguishers and their use.
4. How to make a fire prevention survey on the farm.

5. Enter the 4-H fire prevention program and compete for a trip to the National Safety Congress.

## SOURCE OF SAFETY MATERIALS

### Safety Films

These films are available from the Bureau of Audio-Visual Aids, Extension Division, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

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|--|---------------|
| 1. The Miracle in Paradise Valley<br>(General farm safety)   | Rental \$1.00 |
| 2. More Dangerous than Dynamite<br>(Home causes)   | Rental \$1.75 |
| 3. Farm Tractor Safety - A Family Affair<br>(Model tractor - causes of accidents)  | Rental \$1.00 |
| 4. Hands Off<br>(Corn picker safety)   | Rental \$4.00 |
| 5. Farm Petroleum Safety<br>(Fire prevention)  | Rental \$1.00 |
| 6. Safety Begins at Home<br>(Home hazards)   | Rental \$1.75 |
| 7. Safety in the Home<br>(Dangers in the home)   | Rental \$1.75 |
| 8. Safe Uses of Tools<br>(Uses of simple tools)  | Rental \$2.00 |
| 9. Fire<br>(Essentials of combustion)  | Rental \$1.75 |
| 10. Crimes of Carelessness<br>(Fire prevention - causes)   | Rental \$1.75 |
| 11. Fire Prevention in the Home<br>(General prevention program)  | Rental \$3.00 |
| 12. Falls Are No Fun<br>(Preventing falls)   | Rental \$1.75 |
| 13. Several good films are available from the State Department of Health, Capitol Building, Lincoln, Nebraska. Write for a listing of visual aids. |               |



Additional information and materials on safety are available from your

Extension Specialist, Safety  
College of Agriculture  
Lincoln, Nebraska

### Slides

Slides are available from Extension Safety Specialist, College of Agriculture, Lincoln, Nebraska.

1. Must We Keep Up Falling Down?
2. Your Rural Road Challenge.